

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00658 300828Z

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SUBJECT: PRESS ITEM: "THE U.S. VETO"

THE FOLLOWING LEAD EDITORIAL APPEARED IN JIDDA'S "ARAB NEWS,"
JANUARY 29, 1976, CONCERNING THE U.S. VETO OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION:
BEGIN QUOTE:

THE LATEST MIDDLE EAST DEBATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL, BROUGHT TO A CLOSE EARLY TUESDAY, WAS A GREAT VICTORY
FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, THE U.S. VETO NOTWITHSTANDING. IN
THAT HISTORIC DEBATE, IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR, THE ARABS DID NOT
LOST THE UNITED STATES SIMPLY BECAUSE IT HAD NEVER BEEN THEIRS
IN THE FIRST PLACE. THEY, HOWEVER, WON FRANCE COMPLETELY TO
THEIR SIDE, A GREAT SUCCESS THAT MUST HAVE WASHED AWAY ANY
LINGERING BITTER TASTE RESULTING FROM MR. MOYNIHAN'S NEGATIVE
VOTE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES THE WESTERN WORLD, LED BY
FRANCE, WAS MORE SYMPATHY WITH THE ARAB CAUSE RATHER THAN
IN UNISON WITH AMERICA'S PRO-ISRAELI STAND. BRITAIN, ITALY
AND SWEDEN, BEING UNABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH FRANCE, AND AT
THE SAME TIME NOT WILLING TO BE TIED THE APRON STRINGS OF
WASHINGTON, CAST BLANK BALLOTS. TAKEN IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00658 300828Z

THESE BLANK BALLOTS ARE IN MANY WAYS A SLAP ON ISRAEL'S FACE AND A SUBTLE WARNING THAT NEXT TIME THE THREE COUNTRIES MAY AS WELL VOTE STRAIGHT FOR THE ARABS. THE THREE OF THEM USED IN THE PAST TO VOTE FOR ISRAEL AS PART OF A SOLEMN COMMITMENT ON THEIR PART TO THE JEWISH STATE. IN THIS CONTEXT ABSTENTION CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS A COMPLIMENT TO THE ARABS.

NOBODY GAVE THE UNITED STATES COMPANY DURING THAT DREARY MONDAY NIGHT AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MR. MOYNIHAN MUST HAVE WONDERED HOW MUCH LONGER HIS COUNTRY'S CREDIBILITY AS A LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD COULD SURVIVE AFTER SO DISASTROUS MISUSE OF ITS VETO POWER. NOW THE UNITED STATES HAS GONE A COUPLE OF TIMES THROUGH THE HIGHLY EMBARRASSING SITUATION OF BEING THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO RUSH TO THE PROTECTION OF THE ISRAELI AGGRESSORS BY THE UTILIZATION OF ITS VETO AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND MANY WESTERN OBSERVERS ARE OPENLY QUESTIONING WHETHER THE GAME IS REALLY WORTH THE CANDLE. TO THESE OBSERVERS THE DOWNHILL SLIDE OF ISRAEL'S FORTUNES AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IS SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT BE HELPED. TO FIGHT A LAST DITCH BATTLE TO SAVE ISRAEL'S CONQUESTS IS SOMETHING NO LONGER POPULAR IN THE WESTERN WORLD. MANY OF THESE OBSERVERS HAVE ALREADY COME IN THE OPEN IN FAVOUR OF THE CONCEPT THAT ENVISAGES THE EMERGENCE OF A WESTERN WORLD KEEN NOT TO WASTE ITS BREATH TRYING TO SAVE ISRAEL'S CONQUESTS WHEN IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT IN NO TIME IT WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SAVE ISRAEL'S VERY EXISTENCE. A DEAL BY WHICH ISRAEL COULD TRADE ITS CONQUESTS FOR A PERIOD OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IS THE UTMOST ISRAEL'S FRIENDS COULD DO FOR HER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE CRUCIAL VOTE AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SWEDEN HAD INVITED THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM. BRITAIN HAD TRIED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION BEFORE BEING PUT TO VOTE AND IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, VOTED DOWN BY THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, THAT THE BRITISH WERE IN FAVOUR OF MANY ASPECTS OF THE RESOLUTION. ITALY'S STAND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MUCH DIFFERENT.

THE BARE FACT NOW IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ONE OF ABSURD ATTEMPTS BY AN ISOLATED ISRAEL TRYING IN TURN TO ISOLATE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE BULK OF NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND PUSH IT INTO THE TIGHT CORNER OF BEING THE ONLY NATION STILL COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF ISRAELI CONQUESTS. FOR A NATION WHICH IS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 00658 300828Z

ABOUT TO CELEBRATE ITS BICENTENARY, WITH ALL THE POMP BEFITTING A GREAT DEMOCRACY; WITH REVERENCE MATCHING THIS DISTINGUISHED OCCASION AND THE SUBLIME MEANINGS IT EMBODIES, THE ROLE OF DEFENDING ISRAEL'S CONQUEST IN UTTER DISREGARD OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, COULD HARDLY BE THE TYPE OF THING ONE IS INCLINED TO CONSIDER AN EASY MATTER TO SWALLOW. END QUOTE.

PORTER

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